

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for producing a single-stranded unitized nucleic acid probe comprising the acts of: (a) contacting an oligonucleotide primer having a 5' recognition end having a length of between about 6 to 50 nucleotides and having a 3' priming end having a length of between about 6 to 50 nucleotides with a fixed-size template having a length between 101 and about 10,000 nucleotides under reaction conditions conducive to transcribing a unitized transcript from the fixed-size template; and (b) labeling the unitized transcript with at least one detectable molecule, thereby producing a unitized nucleic acid probe.